Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 112, 1st Paragraph

Claims 3-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The applicants' response to this rejection is contained in the previous section of this paper.

Claims 1-45 are rejected under 35 U.S. C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

In making this rejection and also in the pending prior art rejections, the Examiner evidences a failure to apprehend what the present invention is all about. A portion of the first paragraph of the "Detailed Description" section of the present application (page 3, line 20 to page 4, line 6) is most instructive in this regard and will now be quoted verbatim.

> A method and system for verifying resolution of attributes of commands of a computer program is provided. In one embodiment, the verification system analyzes a command-based computer program prior to runtime to determine whether the input attributes associated with its commands would be properly resolved prior to execution of the commands at runtime. A command specifies a function that is part of the program, and the attributes of the command correspond to input and output parameters of the command. The verification system processes the commands of the program in sequence. For each input attribute of a command, the verification system identifies a source (e.g., output attribute of another command) of the value for the input attribute. The verification system then determines whether that source would itself be resolved to during execution of the computer program at the time the command I [sic: "is"] ready to be performed. If the verification system determines that the source would not be resolved, then the verification system indicates that that input attribute would also not be properly resolved at runtime. A programmer may then modify the computer program to ensure that input attribute would be resolved when the command is ready to be performed. In this way, attribute resolution problems that would occur during runtime of the program can be identified and corrected during development of the computer program. [Emphasis added.]

Thus the present invention is concerned with a verification system that allows for "pre-debugging" of a computer program. As this quoted passage from the specification makes clear, all of the functions of the verification system in analyzing the computer program are performed

prior to runtime of the computer program. This includes all of the functions of the verification system as described thereafter in the "Detailed Description" section, including the functions illustrated in FIGS. 8-17. This specifically includes indicating whether or not attributes are resolved, as set forth at page 21, lines 17-28. Thus the claim limitations cited by the Examiner are fully supported in the specification.[1]

The passages in the specification quoted by the Examiner[2] are not to the contrary. Applicants point out the conditional ("would be") or future ("will be") nature of what is to occur at runtime. In the case of all of the activities of the verification system described in the passages cited by the Examiner, the verification system verifies or determines what would or will happen at runtime, but does so prior to runtime.

Accordingly, it is submitted that the rejection of claims 1-45 pursuant to § 112, first paragraph, should be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Claim Rejections Based on Prior Art

All of the pending prior art rejections rely exclusively or primarily on the Flanagan reference (Patent no. 6,243,737). It is notable that the reference is concerned with making information on a host computer system available via the Internet. This is completely different from the problem addressed by the present invention, which is detecting flaws in a computer program prior to execution of the computer program.

In any event, as detailed at pages 11-12 of the response filed herein in May, 2005, specific limitations in the claims simply are not taught or suggested by the Flanagan reference. At that passage in the previous response, applicants explained in detail why the passages in Flanagan cited by the Examiner did not satisfy specific claim limitations such as "indicating prior to runtime that the input attribute is resolved if the identified output attribute has been indicated as resolved", and "indicating prior to runtime that the input attribute is not resolved if the identified output attribute has not been indicated as resolved."

The Examiner has not explained in any respect why he does not agree with the applicants' discussion of passages in Flanagan in which the applicants pointed out the

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[1] It is noted that the phrase "before executing the program" is synonymous with "prior to runtime" and thus also is fully supported by the specification.
[2] The quoted specific passages are at page 14, lines 5-6; page 15, lines 15-17; page 15, lines 24-25; page 16, lines 7-8; and page 16, lines 29-32.

deficiencies in the reference. Rather, the Examiner appears[3] to rely entirely in this regard on the Examiner's assertion that the claim limitations argued by the applicants were not supported by the specification. However, the Examiner was in error in making this assertion, as explained in the previous section of this paper. Thus, the claim limitations argued by the applicants are not present in the reference, and the rejections based on prior art should therefore be reconsidered and withdrawn.
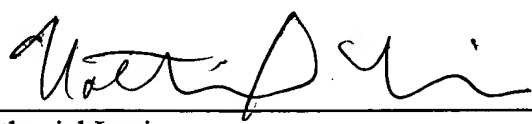
Applicants also note that there is no pending rejection based on prior art of claims 3 and 4. Since the rejection of these claims under § 112, first paragraph, has been overcome by prior remarks herein, claims 3 and 4 are believed to be in condition for allowance, as are the other pending claims for reasons stated above.

CONCLUSION

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request allowance of the pending claims. If any issues remain, or if the Examiner has any further suggestions for expediting allowance of the present application, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned via telephone at (203) 972-3460.

Respectfully submitted,

November 21, 2005
     Date

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[3] See paragraph (4), page 7 of the pending Office Action.